



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	South Main Divide Hazardous Fuel Treatment		
PROJECT LOCATION	South Main Divide Rd, Lake Elsinore, CA Portions of Sections 17, 25, 36 T6SR5W and Section 33 T6SR4W SBBM.	COUNTY	Riverside/Orange
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Forester II	PHONE	(951) 659-3335
ADDRESS	P.O Box 2097, Idyllwild, CA, 92549		

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project goal is to mitigate the impact that a wildland fire would have on the communities in the South Main Divide Area of Lake Elsinore, CA. The proposed fuel break will create a strip of land on which the vegetation will be reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire, protecting the surrounding communities of Rancho Capistrano, El Cariso, Wildomar and Rancho Carrillo. Reduced fuel density in this area will provide improved fire control opportunities and increase firefighter safety in an area with previous devastating fire history. The treatment area is proposed on 22 private properties located in State Responsibility Area. A 300' firebreak, 150' feet from road centerline where applicable, will be constructed with a treated area encompassing approximately 70 acres. This project will complement a US Forest Service project being constructed on federal land in the same area. On site vegetation is represented by chaparral, coastal scrub and grasses. Project elevation varies between 2200-3200 ft. on various aspects and slopes. Under direct supervision of a CAL FIRE Captain, camp crews will be utilized to create defensible space by hand cutting, pruning and removing overgrown, resprouting, dead, and competing vegetation in order to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity and decrease the total fuel load. Hand cut material will be dragged to the nearest accessible road to be chipped and broadcasted back on site or transported off site. Grasses to be cut with weed eaters as needed. No new roads are to be constructed. Vehicles used for project delivery will be limited to existing roads.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4§15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project is small in size and will enhance forest/vegetation health, increase general fire safety and improve aesthetics while creating minimal ground disturbance which will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources or the environment. Field reviews conducted by CAL FIRE staff have confirmed that no impacts will occur which would prevent the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE, Riverside Unit, and 25380 Franklin Dr., Idyllwild CA 92549.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 20 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

12/9/16  
Date